

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DURBAN 00315 101103Z

10/50

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 DRC-01 /072 W

----- 085850

R 091010Z SEP 74

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1793

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

ANCONSUL CAPE TOWN 1324

UNCLAS DURBAN 0315

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 1. FOURTH LINE)

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, MILI, SF

SUBJ: CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP URGES SOUTH AFRICANS TO REFUSE
TO FIGHT ON BORDERS

REF: CAPE TOWN A-57

1. IN STATEMENTS TO PRESS OVER WEEKEND, CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP DENIS HURLEY OF DURBAN CARRIED GROWING CHURCH-STATE CONFRONTATION OVER DEFENSE AMENDMENT BILL (REF AIRGGAM) TO NEW HEIGHT WHEN HE CALLED ON YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS TO REFUSE TO FIGHT ON BORDERS IN ORDER NOT DEFEND "UNJUST SITUATION" IN HIS COUNTRY. SAID ANY BORDER CONFLICT WOULD HAVE BEEN PROVOKED BY SAG'S POLICY OF APARTHEID AND WOULD BE IN EFFECT A CIVIL WAR. IT WAS DUTY OF CHURCH TO DISCOURAGE SOUTH AFRICANS FROM FIGHTING IN SUCH A WAR BECAUSE SUCH PARTICIPATION WOULD BE TO DEFEND AN UNJUST CAUSE, NAMELY APARTHEID. IT NOT PERMISSIBLE FOR CHRISTIANS TO FIGHT AN UNJUST WAR; RATHER "WE MUST RECOGNIZE RIGHT OF LIBERATION MOVEMENTS TO REACT TO SITUATION IN THIS COUNTRY" AND URGENTLY SEEK PEACE-
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FUL SOLUTION OF CONFLICT IN ACCORD WITH CHRISTIAN PRINCIPLES.

IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES CHURCHES SHOULD ADOPT CONSCIENTIOUS
OBJECTION AS A PRINCIPLE "EVEN AT THE RISK OF OPEN CONFRONTA-
TION WITH THE GOVERNMENT". WE MUST START NEGOTIATING AT
ONCE WITH BLACK LEADERS AT HOME AND ABROAD FOR A NEW UNDER-
STANDING IN SOUTH AFRICA BEFORE CONFLICT REALLY STARTS.

2. COMMENT: OUTSPOKEN ARCHBISHOP HURLEY HAS TANGLED WITH
SAG ON NUMEROUS ISSUES IN PAST. BUT THESE STATEMENTS, WHICH
RUN SO DIRECTLY COUNTER TO GOVERNMENT'S POSITION--AND INDEED
TO THAT OF MOST SOUTH AFRICAN WHITES -- WILL UNDOUBTEDLY
PRODUCE VERY STRONG REACTION.

TTMES

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